

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a local area network comprising a plurality of terminals for running client applications and connecting to the Internet, each of said terminals having the ability to divide a request into a plurality of packets and distribute the plurality of packets via the local area network, A a method of sending data over a communications network, the method comprising the steps of

(a) an originating terminal generating a request for a content server;

(b) the originating terminal dividing the request into a plurality of packets;

(c) the originating terminal distributing the plurality of packets between a first plurality of terminals in the local area network, each of said first plurality of terminals (110a, 110b, 110c and 110d) having a respective wide area connection to the Internet, the plurality of packets being distributed over a first the local area network;

(d) the each of said first plurality of terminals transmitting packets received during step (c) over said associated wide area connection to a reconstitution server located in a

~~second network, the first plurality of terminals being connected to the second network by a second plurality of connections; on the Internet; and~~

(c) the reconstitution server receiving the plurality of packets and sending the plurality of packets to the content server.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, comprising the further steps of:

(f) the content server sending content data to the reconstitution server in response to the request received in step (e), the data being sent as a plurality of content data packets;

(g) the reconstitution server distributing the plurality of content data packets to the first plurality of terminals over the ~~second plurality of~~ respective wide area connections;

(h) the first plurality of terminals sending the plurality of content data packets to the originating terminal; and

(i) the originating terminal receiving the plurality of content data packets to re-create the content data.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein in step (c) and/or step (g), the plurality of packets are distributed to the first plurality of terminals in a round-robin basis.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 3, wherein the round-robin distribution of the plurality of packets is weighted.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4, wherein the round-robin weighting is determined in accordance with the bandwidth of the respective wide area connection between the terminal and the ~~second-network~~ Internet.

6. (Currently Amended) A communications network comprising;

a ~~first~~ plurality of terminals, each terminal configured for running client applications and connecting to the Internet, the terminals being connected by a first local area network and at least some of said terminals having a second plurality of connections to a second network, respective wide area connection to the Internet, said plurality of terminals each having the ability to divide a request into a plurality of packets and distribute the plurality of packets via the local area network;

the second network comprising Internet including a reconstitution server and a plurality of content servers, wherein, in use, an originating terminal in the local area network generates a request for one of the content servers, divides the request into a plurality of packets and distributes the plurality of packets between the first a plurality of terminals via the first local area network; and  
~~the plurality~~ each of said plurality of terminals configured for sending packets are sent received to the reconstitution server via ~~the second plurality of respective wide area connections, and the reconstitution server sendingsends~~ the plurality of packets to the content server.

7. (Currently Amended) A communications network according to claim 6, wherein, in use,

the content server sends content data to the reconstitution server in the form of a plurality of content data packets,

the reconstitution server distributes the plurality of content data packets between the ~~first~~ plurality of terminals over the ~~second plurality of~~ respective wide area connections,

the ~~first~~ plurality of terminals ~~distributing~~ route the plurality of content data packets to the originating terminal; and

the originating terminal ~~receiving~~ receives the plurality of content data packets and ~~re-creating~~ creates the content data.

8. (Currently Amended) A communications network according to claim 6, wherein ~~the first~~ one or more of said plurality of terminals ~~is greater~~ has more than ~~the second plurality of~~ connections, one respective wide area connection.

9. (Currently Amended) A communications network according to claim 6, wherein the ~~first plurality of~~ local area network comprises one or more terminals ~~is less than the second plurality of~~ connections, further to said plurality of terminals, not having a wide area connection.

10. (Currently Amended) A communications network according to claim 6, wherein each of the ~~first plurality of~~ active terminals in the local area network comprises a list identifying the other active terminals.

11. (Currently Amended) A communications network according to claim 10, wherein, in use, each active terminal periodically sends a first status message to the other terminals in the local area network to indicate that it is active.

12. (Currently Amended) A communications network according to claim 10, wherein an active terminal sends a second status message to the other terminals in the local area network prior to becoming inactive.

13-15. (Cancelled)